

# Joe Weight Retires From Officiating Sports

Charleston (LRJ) Mr. Joseph Weight, a resident of Charleston and a science teacher at Wasatch High School has cut back on some of his extracurricular activities as this athletic year comes to a close.

Last Friday at the Colonial Inn in Lehi, the Utah County Basketball Officials Association held its first annual formal banquet and "roasted" and toasted Mr. Weight. The action was the highlight of the occasion, and the real thrill was Joe's receiving a gold watch. He had mention to fellow referees that when he retired that's what he

wanted. Someone heard and remembered and Joe proudly demonstrated it dangling from the accompanying gold chain. But Mr. Weight still has more than time on his hands.

The retiring comes after 40 years of refereeing. An early beginning was blessed by his father, the late Kenneth Weight Sr., who encouraged him to get involved. "You'll be healthier and have a better outlook on life," he said. Joe has noted the break from the routine of work and the chance to meet "a lot of great people." Other advice from his father was also taken to heart

and Mr. Weight has learned his avocation well. "Refereeing is a service to the youth of America and our fine educational system," he repeats.

Long trips at night, often in inclement weather and harsh and half of the pay, the dollars not even being counted for a referee. The lasting pay for Joe has been the continuation of a family tradition of being involved in

state athletics, the joy that comes from associating with some of the very best ball players around, and the pride that comes from being consistently fair and considerate of players, fans and

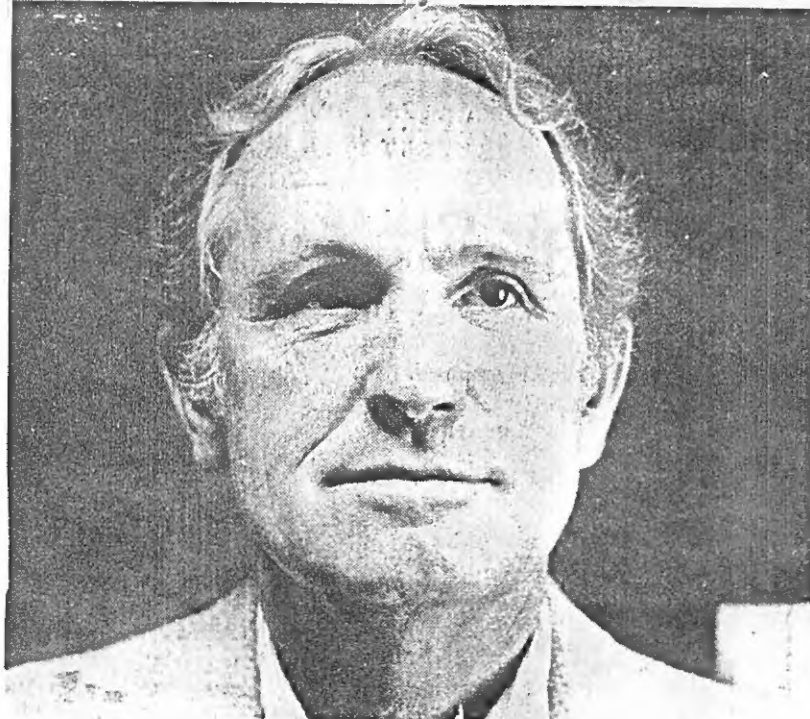
coaches.

Perhaps Joe's involvement is best described as he describes how he wants to "go out."

"At my funeral, I don't want anyone shooting rifles over me. They can dress me in fine clothes, but underneath them I want my black and white shirt and my slacks. And I want my whistle. I want six of you guys dressed in black and white to carry me, and I want you to blow your whistles."

It surely would be a foul to loose one so in love with the game and with life. "May the watch wear out before you do, Joe," said his friend.

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Joe Weight